FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 OCTOBER 1986

Lebanon

Israeli warplanes attacked a "terrorist" base 20 km northeast of Tripoli 6 October, hitting a building used as a command headquarters by one of the "rejectionist front" organizations, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The raid is the first Israeli air attack on the 'Akkar area of northern Lebanon, close to the Syrian border, the radio noted. A PFLP spokesman cited by Beirut radio said that one PFLP member was wounded in the raid, which heavily damaged two PFLP positions in the 'Akkar region. A Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) spokesman stated that SSNP positions were also attacked, the radio noted.

In Damascus, Amal Movement and Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) officials agreed on a cease-fire to end the fighting between Amal and Palestinian gunmen in the Tyre area, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported 5 October. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had earlier denounced Amal's "aggression" in a statement broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio, claiming that Amal received "the direct and indirect support of the Zionist enemy" in its moves against the Palestinian camps near Tyre. An Amal statement broadcast by Beirut radio accused the Palestinians of accumulating weapons in an attempt to return to the pre-1982 situation, stressing that this is "totally rejected" by Amal, which insists that the Palestinians in Al-Rashidiyah and other camps in the area hand over their weapons. A Lebanese Army source cited by the radio denied a Palestinian claim that the Army has joined Amal in firing at Al-Rashidiyah.

Despite earlier reports that the various militias would close down their illegal ports, Radio Free Lebanon reported that Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party have failed to close their ports at Al-Awza'i and Khaldah. The Lebanese Forces (LF) said this proves that "the other party" does not want dialogue, the radio noted. Regarding the internal situation on the Christian side, Voice of Lebanon radio cited comments by Army Commander General Michel 'Awn criticizing the LF's statement on the 28 September clash between the Army and the LF in Monte Verde. He indicated that it is impossible under current circumstances for him to meet with LF leader Samir Ja'ja'.

As for the foreign hostages in Lebanon, AFP said that a video tape issued by the Islamic Jihad 3 October depicted U.S. hostages Terry Anderson and David Jacobsen reading out a statement appealing for U.S. Government action to secure their release. Islamic Jihad subsequently issued another tape showing its three French hostages, AFP reported, noting that an accompanying statement said they will be released in return for 17 Arab prisoners jailed in Kuwait.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced further Iraqi air strikes 6 October, stating that Iraqi planes hit gas-compressing stations in the Bid Boland area, oil-pumping stations in the Marun oil fields, and the Ahvaz oil fields. IRNA acknowledged the raids, reporting that several civilians were injured in attacks on industrial areas near Ahvaz and Aghajari.

In earlier action, two Iranian aircraft bombed the Iraqi city of Al-Kut 5 October, killing 6 civilians and wounding 33 others, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses. Two civilians were also killed by an Iranian artillery attack on Basra, the communique added. An Iranian communique reported by IRNA confirmed the raid on Al-Kut and the bombardment in the Basra area. The Iranian attacks followed the killing of at least 27 Iranians in Iraqi air raids on industrial centers in Khuzestan 4 October, according to IRNA. A communique reported by the agency claimed that an Iraqi warplane was downed during the raids, and an Iranian spokesman cited by Tehran radio said Iran would retaliate by shelling Basra and Khanaqin. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses stated that the raids were directed against a paper plant and a sugar factory south of Dezful.

Iraqi planes attacked another "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast 3 October, according to an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses. A Lloyds Insurance Company spokesman disclosed that a Maltese tanker was the target of the attack, noting that the vessel was damaged by an Iraqi missile, INA reported.

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told conscripted Iraqi students that they are not currently required at the battlefronts and that they can resume their studies because Iraq now has sufficient resources "to defeat any reckless offensive regardless of its quality and magnitude." In his address, which was broadcast by Voice of the Masses 4 October, the Iraqi leader noted that the decision to send the 100,000 student conscripts back to their colleges was taken at a joint RCC and Ba'th Party regional command meeting after consulting with the military command. The students have acquired skills that will make them "brave heroes" if the Army needs them, he said, and the "great experiment" of training students during their summer vacation may become a regular occurrence. He said it is "incorrect" that students should "aimlessly" wander the streets during their vacation and be exposed to the "negative" influence of leisure at a time when other Iraqis are fighting at the fronts.

Israel

Responding to a report on Israel's nuclear capability by the UK paper *The Sunday Times*, a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by *Davar* stressed that Israel "will not be the first country to

introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East." "Many baseless speculations" have been published in the international press about Israel's nuclear capability, he maintained.

Jordan

Royal Decrees reported by Amman radio 4 October announced the resignation of Interior Minister Hasan al-Kayid and a reshuffle of several other Cabinet posts. The new interior minister is Raja'i al-Dajani, whose former position as transport minister is taken by Ahmad Dakhqan, previously the agriculture minister. Only hours before his announced resignation, Al-Kayid gave a news conference in which he announced further details concerning Jordan's policy of issuing provisional passports to Gazan Palestinians residing in Jordan, according to the radio. Another Royal Decree was issued over the weekend accepting former Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat's resignation from the Senate, Amman's *Sawt al-Sha'b* disclosed.

West Bank deputies of the House of Representatives expressed their support for Jordan's West Bank policy in a statement broadcast by Amman television 4 October, welcoming the appointment of three Arab mayors, the reopening of banks, and the Jordanian 5-year plan for the occupied territories. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i told Radio Monte Carlo in a 2 October interview that Jordan's West Bank policy "cannot be considered as signifying a political change," and he denied that Jordan is seeking to normalize relations with Israel. As for the PLO's criticism of Jordan's approval of the appointment of the three mayors, Al-Rifa'i maintained that "this is a new PLO stand which is completely different" from its previous position and its agreements with Jordan.

PLO

The "ambiguity" surrounding Tunisia's attitude toward the PLO presence in Tunis is "about to be resolved" without the mediation of any third party, according to an "authorized" Tunisian source cited by KUNA 3 October. Tunisian and PLO officials are expected to meet shortly, the agency added. The UAE paper *Al-Ittihad subsequently quoted sources in Tunis as saying that* Tunisia and the PLO will sign a new agreement that will allow the PLO to maintain its political headquarters in Tunis, according to WAM.

In another development in Tunis, PLO officials held talks with a visiting Soviet delegation 2 October, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio noted.

Kuwait

The minister of state for Cabinet affairs denied Iranian press reports that non-Kuwaiti forces are on Bubiyan Island, saying "Kuwaiti Army forces only" are on the island, KUNA reported.

The oil minister said Kuwait will demand an increase in its production quota, in a statement to the daily *Al-Ra'y Al-'Amm* cited by KUNA. He stressed Kuwait cannot continue "sacrificing" for OPEC unity while also assisting needy countries with their development plans.

GCC Defense Ministers Meeting in Muscat

At the end of the 4-5 October Defense Council session, the GCC secretary general said in a statement cited by KUNA that the ministers had adopted recommendations made by their chiefs of staff. The Kuwaiti defense minister noted that the discussions focused on improving air defenses, air forces, and naval power, according to KUNA. Oman's deputy premier for security and defense affairs, who chaired the Muscat meeting, thanked the participants for their constructive efforts "fostering integration and solidarity."

Iran

Tehran radio confirmed the release of the Syrian diplomat who was abducted in the capital 2 October, noting that the Syrian was released unharmed by his kidnappers in northern Tehran. The authorities are investigating the incident, the radio added. The four Iranian weightlifters who sought refuge at the Iraqi Embassy in Seoul have decided to join the Mojahedin-e Khalq, according to a Mojahedin statement cited by INA.

Maghreb: Tunisian PM in Algiers

Minutes of the Tunisian prime minister's talks with President Chadli Bendjedid and other Algerian officials over the weekend were reported by Algiers radio, which noted that the two sides stressed the need to continue efforts to achieve "solidarity and integration" among Maghreb countries. They also agreed to bolster bilateral economic cooperation and develop trade exchanges.

Sudan

The Anya Nya II movement appealed to international relief agencies to airlift supplies to the famine victims in the south. In a statement to SUNA, a spokesman assured "Operation Rainbow" officials that supplies can be safely transported via the Malakal and Juba airports, adding that Anya Nya II is on "high alert to confront operations threatening citizens' security."

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will visit Baghdad and Tehran "by the end of the month" to promote his "new plan" for ending the Iran-Iraq war, a high-ranking Sudanese source disclosed to the London-based *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*.

DRA

The PRC agency XINHUA cited reports that at least 47 people were killed in the 28 September car bomb explosion near the Soviet trade mission in Kabul. The blast reportedly destroyed most of the building, killing 42 persons inside it as well as 5 other people.

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Martial Law To Be Lifted After 15 Oct Elections

BK041618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] President Ershad has announced Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] will be summoned as soon as possible after the coming presidential elections [on 15 October] and martial law will be lifted through the passage of an indemnity bill. He was addressing a lawyers conference sponsored by the Bangladesh Lawyers Federation at Silpakala [fine arts] Academy in Dhaka this afternoon.

Giving a brief resume of his efforts for the smooth transition to democracy, the president said he has been persistently saying that martial law can never be a permanent system and it should be a sacred obligation to transfer power to an elected government. The government has been making relentless efforts to this end and stake out a national consensus. After the peaceful holding of Jatiya Sangsad and by-elections, the presidential election is being held on the 15th of this month. Being the last phase of the transition to democracy, this election is very important as through it constitutional law will be replace martial law and real people's representative government will be established. This in turn will bring about political stability.

The president said [Begin Ershad recording in Bengali] The parliamentary elections were held peacefully on 7 May last. The presidential election will be held on 15 October next. This is a very important election, and this will result in our transition to constitutional government from the military rule and establishment of a people's representative government in the real term and of political stability. Therefore, the responsibility for the success of presidential election lies on all of us. [end recording]

About the lawyers demand for the complete separation of judiciary from the executive, the president said the question is under active consideration of the government. It will help make the legal profession more dignified and totally impartial. The president declared amid thunderous applause that the first bill to be tabled before Parliament when it resumes next session will be the bill on the separation of judiciary from the executive. One of the first steps he took immediately after taking over the responsibility of running the administration was reformation of the judiciary. The prime objective of this epoch-making step, he said, was to ensure quick dispensation of justice, equality of all citizens in the eyes of law and to see that justice is not confined to urban areas only and it becomes rural based as well.

'Martial Law Order' Prohibits Anti-Election Campaigns

BK051720 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 5 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 5 (AFP) — The Bangladesh military regime Sunday issued a martial law order prohibiting all kinds of propaganda and demonstrations against a scheduled presidential election on October 15, the official BSS News Agency reported.

BSS, quoting a martial law regulation issued Sunday, said any anti-election activities as well as any kind of propagation and newspaper reports or views against the October 15 presidential election will be punishable with a term of up to seven years "rigourous" imprisonment.

Opposition Foresees 'Mass Upheaval,' 'Political Chaos'

BK060502 Hong Kong AFP in English 0419 GMT 6 Oct 86

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 6 (AFP) — Bangladesh opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed says she expects a mass upheaval against the military regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad unless he bows to popular demands for his resignation.

"We are opposed to violence, but a time may come when we may not be able to sustain our peaceful and non-violent movement for restoration of people's rights," she said in an interview Sunday.

Sheikh Hasina, 40, chief of the Awami League which heads an eight-party opposition alliance, said the martial-law rule of Lt. Gen. Ershad and his attempts to legitimise it through "farcical elections" could plunge the nation into political chaos.

She said the four-and-a-half-year-old martial law was unpopular and "there is a limit to people's patience."

Sheikh Hasina, who is the daughter of the nation's slain leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said her alliance was preparing for a mass movement that would ultimately bring an end to a situation in which generals were tempted to seize power by force of arms. Lt. Gen. Ershad seized power in a bloodless coup in March 1982. Her group did not want to see another coup in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina said, adding that "we don't want to see the Army as an opponent and an Army-versus-people situation."

Sheikh Hasina's eight-party alliance, another opposition alliance headed by Begum Khaleda Zia and the fundamentalist Jamaat-I-Islami Party have all urged supporters to boycott the presidential election called for October 15. The opposition groups have called for a nationwide anti-poll campaign which is to culminate in a general strike on voting day. "We would agree to a fresh general election within six months" if Gen Ershad relinquished power to a caretaker government, Sheikh Hasina said.

In May, Sheikh Hasina's alliance took part in controversial parliamentary elections and secured 98 of the 330 seats in Parliament after abandoning a joint anti-government movement with Khaleda Zia's seven-party alliance. Sheikh Hasina was later elected leader of the opposition in Parliament but refused to attend its first session, alleging massive vote rigging and accusing Lt Gen Ershad of backing out of his promise to lift martial law after the elections.

On Sunday the government issued a martial law order prohibiting all kinds of anti-election activities, including demonstrations and newspaper reports opposed to the polls. Lt Gen Ershad has blamed the opposition for "prolonging martial law" by refusing to cooperate with his ruling Jatiya Party to pass a proposed bill which would legitimise his military rule before he would agree to remove martial law.

The Jatiya Party holds 210 seats, about 12 short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass the bill which would indemnify Lt. Gen. Ershad for having overthrown a civilian government and introducing martial law. Political observers said that a number of small parties in Parliament have announced they would support the bill in Parliament.

Sheikh Hasina said the passing of the indemnity bill was the Jatiya Party's own problem. "Our alliance had not participated in May 7 polling to indemnify Ershad and his military rule," she said.

The Awami League chief indicated that the 98 MP's in her alliance might attend the next session of Parliament if it was convened by the president to put through his indemnity bill. "We would attend to expose the misrule of last four and a half years," she said.

AFP Reports Press Strike Called Off 4 Oct

BK041442 Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 4 (AFP) — Some 6,000 journalists and press workers in Bangladesh have agreed to call off a two-week strike which has kept most newspapers off the streets, union leaders anounced Saturday. The strike was called off after the unions and the newspaper owners' association Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parisad (BSP) reached agreement Saturday, Habibur Rahman Milan, president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) said.

Details of the agreement were not immediately available, but union leaders said that the BSP had assured them that measures wold be taken for the resumption of publication of the *Bangladesh Observer*, whose closure sparker the strike September 21. Journalists, general employees, and press workers in the country's 40 newspapers and two news agencies staged the strike to press the authorities to resume publication of the *Observer*, which has been closed for six months leaving 400 people jobless because of a dispute between workers and management.

'Most' Dhaka Papers Back After Strike

BK050749 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 5 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Oct 5 (AFP) — Most Dhaka dailies were back on the newstands Sunday for the first time in two weeks as some 6,000 newspaper and news agency employees returned to work. The print media employees, including journalists, ended a 13-day strike Saturday after an agreement was reached with the newspapers owners council. [passage omitted]

'Fresh Flare-Up' in Chittagong Hill Tracts Kills 10

BK040852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, 10 persons were killed and 4 injured in a fresh flare-up of fighting between tribal rebels and nontribals in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region yesterday. According to Interior Ministry officials, the fighting took place when the rebels attacked the nontribal settlement in Ramgarh District.

Further Reportage on Recent Assassination Attempt

AFP Reports Gandhi, Ribeiro Remarks

BK040426 Hong Kong AFP in English 0412 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 4 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said on Friday that the attempt on his life and that of the Punjab police chief by suspected Sikh militants showed that an increasingly successful drive against them by the government had made them desperate.

Mr Gandhi told newsmen in Hyderabad, southern India: "I have said it earlier and I repeat it — the more successful we are against the terrorists, the more dramatic attacks they will try to gain ground. This is a phase the country will have to go through."

Mr Gandhi, who was unhurt when shots were fired at him on Thursday, left on a scheduled tour of Maharashtra State in the west soon afterward. From there he proceeded to Andhra Pradesh State — Hyderabad is its capital — to tour the areas hit by recent monsoon floods.

His statement was in answer to journalists who asked what assurance he would like to give the people as the attempt on him and Punjab Police Director-General Julio Ribeiro had shattered the Indian people's confidence in the government's ability to provide security for its leaders, *Press Trust of India* reported. Mr Gandhi said Home Minister Buta Singh would ensure effective security not only for VIP's but for everyone.

The identity of the assailant who tried to kill Mr Gandhi was yet to be established. He had given several different names during questioning, officials said. But it was thought he could be Karamjit Singh, a Sikh from Sangrur District in Punjab, additional director of the Central Bureau of Investigation C.M. Radhkrishnan Nair said.

Meanwhile, Mr Ribeiro said on Delhi TV on Friday night that the attempt on his life had only made him "more determined to fight the terrorists." Mr Ribeiro said he, his wife, and the police sentries in the Punjab Armed Police headquarters were attacked by the militants early in the morning. He showed his left forearm bandaged and said a bullet grazed his arm. He said his wife was wounded in her calf.

Mr Ribeiro said the incident was a "security failure". The militants managed to enter the complex by wearing police uniforms. Some of them were in senior officers' dress.

Earlier, PTI quoted Mr Ribeiro as saying at a press conference in Amritsar, the Sikh holy city in Punjab, shortly after the attack on him: "We are at war with terrorists.... The might of the state cannot be shaken by such attacks."

Security Viewed; Gandhi Cables Ribeiro

BK031615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, reviewed the overall security arrangements in the state in an emergency meeting at Chandigarh today. He ordered an immediate review of security arrangements of VIP's. Mr Barnala said visitors to the state secretariat in Chandigarh will be regulated.

The prime minister today expressed relief over the providential escape of Mr Ribeiro from an attempt on his life. In a message to Mr Ribeiro, Mr Gandhi expressed his best wishes. He also wished speedy recovery of Mrs Ribeiro from the injuries sustained in the incident.

Mr Ribeiro has said that the attempt on his life is not going to weaken the resolve to fight out terrorist violence in the state. Talking to newsmen in Amritsar, he said the security forces all over the state have been alerted.

Police Forewarned of Attempt on Gandhi

BK041320 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 4 (AFP) — Police were warned that an assassination bid would be made on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Thursday, but failed to act, intelligence sources said Saturday. The report that police had been tipped off about a planned attack on Mr Gandhi came amid a national outcry against incompetent security.

Mr Gandhi escaped unscathed from the attack which left six people slightly injured when a gunman hiding in bushes fired three cartridges — the last two, 20 minutes after the first.

Intelligence sources said information had been passed three days previously to Delhi police Special Branch, which was involved in Thursday's bungled security operation, that the attacker would probably be disguised as a gardener. The special branch was one of four agencies responsible for security at Rajghat where the prime minister, his wife Sonia, President Zail Singh, and many top government members had gathered to pray on the anniversary of the birth of Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi. Local police officials had earlier denied that they had any prior knowledge of the attack and the Special Branch does not talk to the press.

The attempts on the lives of Mr Gandhi and on Friday the man spearheading the government's fight against Sikh militancy in Punjab, Julio Ribeiro, have left the security forces reeling from a nationwide onslaught against laxity, indiscipline, and ignorance. Both men escaped unharmed, but the security forces undoubtedly face the loss of many top members.

AFP: 'Major Security Shakeup' Expected

BK040817 Hong Kong AFP in English 0716 GMT 4 Oct 86

[By Barry Parker]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 4 (AFP) — Bids to kill India's prime minister and best-known police chief have left the security forces here reeling from a nationwide onslaught against laxity, indiscipline, and ignorance which is expected to bring a rapid, major security shakeup.

Premier Rajiv Gandhi and the man spearheading the government's fight against Sikh militancy in Punjab, Julio Ribeiro, both escaped unharmed from attacks on successive days this week, but the security forces undoubtedly face the loss of many top members. Already the prime minister's cousin, Gautam Kaul, who headed VIP security in Delhi, has been suspended along with four other police officers, and according to newspaper reports Saturday, they are likely to be just the tip of the iceberg. The prime minister returns to the capital Saturday from western India and the security review is expected to begin in earnest. [passage omitted]

The escape of Mr Gandhi and Mr Ribeiro were more due to good fortune, and perhaps the police chief's speed in hitting the deck, than the protection elite security men provided, observers here agree.

A report in the respected *Statesman* newspaper Saturday said an unspecified number of men of the Delhi armed police were being disarmed on the orders of the capital's Lieutenant-Governor H.L. Kapoor because they had shown they could not shoot straight. Several members of the security forces had reportedly begun firing wildly at any nearby bush and tree when they belatedly realised Mr Gandhi was under attack. A first shot fired at the premier had reportedly been dismissed as a scooter backfiring until the shooting started again more than 20 minutes later.

The attack on Mr Ribeiro took place in a supposedly "totally protected area" — the headquarters of the Punjab armed police at Jalandhar in the Punjab as the Ribeiros took a morning stroll. Six Sikh attackers drove unchallenged into the walled compound aboard a jeep with a rough hand-painted sign saying police, a wrong-shaped number plate and the flashing red light on the wrong side. The men, who were dressed in police uniform, escaped by the same route without apparently a single shot fired against them. The Khalistan commando force, the outlawed spearhead of the militant campaign, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

A top-level inquiry has been ordered into the security failures at the Rajghat memorial to Mohandas Gandhi, where nearly all foreign VIP's pay their respects to the Mahahtma, and where the prime minister went to pray on the 117th birthday of the nation's founding father. Several security agencies join forces to guard the nation's leaders and many commentators and politicians are blaming their multiple number for the chaos.

Until Indira Gandhi, former prime minister and Rajiv Gandhi's mother, was gunned down by two of her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984, Delhi police had been responsible for the security of top officials, although she had also called in Indo-Tibetan border police to guard her home. A national security guard was set up, but as security demands grew with Sikh militancy, the Home Ministry created the Special Protection Group (SPG) just for the prime minister. Delhi police security branch were left to guard less senior officials and the premier's cousin, Gautam Kaul, put in charge, although he had no apparent security experience. While the new force was set up elite commandos were deployed at the prime minister's residence. When Mr Gandhi came under fire on Thursday the security was "ensured" by the local police station, Delhi police security unit, elite commandos and the SPG, which was supposed to be in charge.

AFP Reports Hindus, Police Battle

BK041425 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 4 (AFP) — Some 3,000 Hindus battled with police here Saturday, leaving at least 25 people injured, two days after a Sikh attempted to kill Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, eyewitnesses said.

Police and rioters exchanged shots, witnesses said, and dozens of teargas canisters were fired as hundreds of police prevented the Hindus from marching through "sensitive" Moslem districts of Old Delhi's Walled City.

Deputy Commissioner Ajay Chadda said police had opened fire but that he did not yet know if anyone had been killed. About 100 people had been arested on charges of rioting and police had surrounded about 300 remaining Hindu rioters near a temple Saturday night.

The annual chariot procession traditionally passes through the Moslem districts to celebrate the festival of Lord Rama, the Hindu warrior-hero. Police feared that Hindu extremists would use the occasion to start trouble, particularly after the attempted assassination of Mr Gandhi, who is a Hindu. Some 2,000 people died on Delhi's streets after the assassination of his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi, in October 1984.

Police baton-charged the Hindus, which prompted them to throw stones and bottles, a lawyer P.K. Khanna said. He said police had repeatedly baton-charged what had been a peaceful gathering, dragging people dressed as Lord Rama and other Hindu gods from chariots and severely beating them. All shops in Chandhi Chowk, Delhi's largest and busiest shopping area, and the adjoining Dariba Kalan jewelery market, closed down.

India's leading female police officer, Deputy Commissioner Kiran Bedi, was seen supervising operations from rooftops overlooking troubled streets. She said police "had fired on rioters who broke into a perfume bottle warehouse and had been throwing bottles for 40 minutes with supplies to last hours."

The central area of the old city was virtually sealed off as police and marchers faced each other amid high tension, witneses said.

A police spokesman said that all leave had been cancelled Sunday.

At the end of July at least six peopel were killed as Hindus rioted first agaisnt Sikhs and then took to attacking Moslems. Those riots followed the killing of 14 bus passengers by Sikh militants in Punjab on July 25. Thirteen of those killed were Hindus.

The riots that followed Mrs Gandhi's shooting by her Sikh bodyguards saw Hindus take revenge on the minority Sikh community. [passage omitted]

Police said that at least 100 policemen were hurt during the riot when acid bombs were thrown at them. Ten of the injured policemen were in serious condition, police said. An unknown number of demonstrators were also injured by the acid bombs, police added.

Businesses Close for Detainees' Release

BK060855 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Oct 86

[Text] Shops and business establishments in old Delhi remained closed today in response to a call by the Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party and some other organizations. They are demanding the release of people arrested on Saturday [4 October].

Commentator Views Shooting, Political Atmosphere

BK040729 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1545 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Station commentary by V.D. Chopra, vice president of Patriot Group of Publications]

[Text] The attempt on the life of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at Rajghat yesterday indeed is a sad commentary on the state of our VIP security. The fact that this abortive attempt was made when Mr Rajiv Gandhi had visited Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, the one who laid down his life to defend the secular edifice of the country, in itself is very agonizing. There is no doubt that this tragic event has exposed certain glaring lapses in our security system. The magnitude of these lapses increases many fold because hardly 2 years back Mrs Indira Gandhi was assassinated and since then many VIP's became victims of bullets of certain fanatics.

This is the problem which has to be gone into by security experts and obviously the sensitive question cannot be discussed publicly. Nevertheless, it would be against the national interest to look at this problem from only administrative angle. The problem has deeper ramifications than what appear on the surface. There can hardly be any difference of opinion in the country that the security set up in the country, particularly the security of the prime minister, needs to be basically restructured. However, oversimplified assessment of this problem and exclusive concentration on its adminstrative aspect will not take us too far. On the other hand, it may lead to certain advserse repercussions. It may sap people's confidence in the administrative machinery in its totality which in turn may erode credibility of the political leadership.

This, however, does not mean that this aspect of the problem should not be given a top priority. No administrative machinery can inspire confidence among the people if it cannot ensure security of the political leaders. Let us not make any bones about it. But this is only half truth and half truths are more dangerous than lies. As a matter of fact, one-sided or oversimplified assessment of this problem diverts the attention of the nation from its other dimensions, the chief among them being the new threat to India's unity and security. It is, therefore, not enough to focus attention on the individual who made this abortive attempt on life of the prime minister, his motives, and above all the failure of the intelligence services. Though these aspects need to be investigated thoroughly, it would be incorrect to ignore the political atmosphere which generates what may be called politics of terrorism.

The attempts to convey that the dastardly act is nothing but a manifestation of politics of terrorism by a handful of misguided youths conceal reality. To be able to see through the game of disintegration and destabilization, it is necessary to recapture some seemingly unconnected developments. The most striking feature of the Indian reality in the 80's is that in certain border states in the country some disgruntled elements are raising separatist slogans. What is new is that those who raise these slogans have not been successfully tackled and they continue to misinform the people. Moreover, when we begin to mix religion with politics down the hill journey begins and modern secular outlook becomes the casualty.

It is this political atmosphere in which religion and politics get interwoven with each other which provides fertile soil for religious fundamentalism to grow. And once the religious fundamentalism grips the mind of the people, the most fanatic among them become the terrorists and the vast majority of people become passive spectators in this tragic drama. This is the crux of the problem. This is an entirely new feature which has surfaced in the Indian policy in the 80's.

There is no doubt that during the British colonial rule, communalism was fostered by the alien rulers to keep India under their subjugation. It is also a fact of history that communal virus started raising its ugly head during the British rule. In fact, the alien rulers and their ideologues never accepted that India is a nation. What is more revealing is that even today they harp on this tune.

It has been openly predicted in a section of the Western mass media even by liberal intellectuals that India is a subcontinent and not a nation, therefore, it will disintegrate. Theories are being spun to make out that Balkanization of India will take place by the end of this century. Thus, if one looks at the problem from a broader angle, it becomes clear that in the process of nation-state building our country is confronted with new challenges. The solution of this problem cannot be evolved within traditional parameters. India in transition, India in the midst of building a modern society, has to evolve a new ideological framework and the first step in this direction is that religion should be delinked from politics. Various religions and their moral-ethical orders should guide the outlook of an individual in his personal and private life and not [get] mixed up with politics. This is how the Western nation-states were evolved and bitter struggles were fought on this most senseless question. The Reformation movement in the West symbolized this struggle.

India too is witnessing this struggle, and politics of terrorism only shows that dieing and decaying forces are trying to reverse the wheels of history. They have their foreign mentors also. There are also certain forces which have come to believe that a united and strong India blocks their ambitions of domination. Thus, threat to India's unity and integrity comes both from internal and

external forces. Since Mr Rajiv Gandhi in the post-Nehru-Indira period has become the symbol of India's unity, he has become their target. Nevertheless, the fearlessness with which Mr Rajiv Gandhi is facing the challenges in itself shows that India's forward march to become the most modern nation in the world cannot be halted. This is the moral of yesterday's development.

'Maximum Alert' Reported at Northeast Airports

BK040040 Hong Kong AFP in English 0023 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 3 (AFP) — Airports in northeastern India have been put on maximum alert against possible hijack bids by unidentified insurgent groups, the *Press Trust of India* reported Friday.

Police sources in Gauhati, capital of the State of Assam which borders Bangladesh, were quoted as saying that authorities had learnt that some insurgent groups were planning to hijack planes. They gave no further details. Insurgency in the northeast involves the Nagas in Nagaland S ate, the Meithis in Manipur and the Tripura National Volunteers in Tripura.

In Mizoram State, a separatist guerrilla campaign lasting nearly two decades ended recently when the main insurgent group, the Mizo National Front, signed a peace government [as received] with the New Delhi government.

Official Denies Link With Gandhi's Would-Be Assassin
BK051725 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 5 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The Senate which resumed its session in Islamabad this evening was informed of the final and categorical position of the government that general elections in the country would not be held before 1990. A statement to this effect was made by the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, while speaking on privilege motion sought to be moved by Mr Zulfiqar Ali Chishti about the reported statement by a political leader saying that the dedcision for holding mid-term elections had been taken by the government. The motion was not pressed by the mover after the statement of the minister.

Maulana Kauser Miazi did not press his privilege motion seeking to discuss foreign media reports implicating Pakistan in terrorist activities in India and the recent abortive attempt on the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The minister of state for foreign affairs vehemently denied the report and reiterated Pakistan's position that it had neither trained any Sikh guerrilla or terrorist, nor had it any intention to interfere in the internal affairs of India and any other country. He described as ridiculous the report about the confession by the person who had made the abortive attempt on the Indian prime minister that he had been trained in Pakistan.

The House will meet again tomorrow at 1700.

DAWN: Ziaul Haq's Accusation of Opposition 'Unfair'
BK031503 Karachi DAWN in English 29 Sep 86 pp 1,12

[Text] Karachi, Sep 28: Meaningful and productive government- opposition dialogue can only be held on the basis of party-based elections under the 1973 Constitution, Opposition political leaders said in Karachi.

As for the local bodies' poll, they held the view that it could not be completely divested of the normal political process — a process which would help in educating the local people on their day-to-day problems.

The party leaders — Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari, President, National Democratic Party (NDP); Khwaja Khairuddin, President of his group of Pakistan Muslim League; and Shah Faridul Haq, Senior Vice-President of Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) — were commenting on President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq's latest observations during his visit to Quetta and Ziarat on the subject of partyless municipal polls due next year.

Mr Mazari said Gen Zia's accusation against the Opposition's so-called rigid attitude was "unfair." He thought that any dialogue with the Government without party-based elections under the 1973 Constitution as its basis, would be an "exercise in futility." Besides, it would shatter confidence of the people in the rule of law and in democracy.

The NDP chief deplored the bane of the country's political history that every autocrat gave the nation his "tailor-made" Constitution. This time also, the 1985 Constitution through the Eighth Amendment had replaced the 1973 Constitution — a position which "we will never accept."

Mr Mazari maintained that the political parties were not allowed to stand in the que during non-party elections, so how could it be said of them that they had missed the bus? In fact, they had played "a very honourable role" in politics by keeping aloof from the party-less elections and, thus, keeping their political identity intact, he observed.

Opposing the move to conduct local bodies' polls on a non-party basis Mr Mazari said there was a genuine feeling among the people that political process, both at the local and national levels, should be allowed on a party basis.

Besides, he asked, what guarantee was there that when the Junejo-led Pakistan Muslim League was formed in a party-less House under Gen Zia's patronage, the local bodies Councillors also would not be encouraged to join the same official party.

Khwaja Khairuddin said that if the mid-term elections were in the best national interests, what harm was there for the Government to talk to the Opposition on the modalities, of elections? Both the Government and the Opposition should refrain from making it a point of personal prestige, he urged.

The PML chief, however, said that the problem No 1 was to defuse the situation from developing into a point of no return. The country was faced with a threat of civil strife and on its borders "a sword of Damocles" was hanging.

He quoted the first Prime Minister, Mr Liaquat Ali Khan, as saying that "politics is an art of reasonable adjustment" and said that as the country could not afford confrontation, the political leaders should "unconditionally" come to terms with the Government for the sake of national integrity and security.

Khwaja Khairuddin, however, suggested that Gen Zia, being a de facto Head of the State, should take initiative in inviting the political leaders to a conference table.

He said in another context he saw no harm in holding local bodies elections on a non-party basis, but emphasised that the political parties should not be debarred from participating in them.

Shah Faridul Haq said that except for the Junejo-led PML and Jamaat-i-Islami, all other parties have unanimously demanded immediate party-based elections and, therefore, the Government- Opposition dialogue should be on this basis alone.

The whole question, in his view, boiled down to one's credibility. The non-party House was converted into the one, based on a party system and so the party-less local bodies could as well be converted into the PML-led bodies, he feared.

Gen Zia's citation of other countries having local bodies working on a non-party basis was not relevant, Mr Faridul Haq said.

Tehran Reports Syrian Diplomat's Release

NC040718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the second secretary at the Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic, who was abducted on Friday night [jom'eh shab] by some unidentified persons, was released on one of the northern avenues of Tehran late last night. According to this report, he is safe and unharmed. The incident is being investigated and followed up by the relevant authorities.

Khamene'i Addresses Interior Ministry on Unity

LD042225 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 4, IRNA — Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Saturday that the global arrogance is conspiring to sow discord among Iranians from various walks of life in order to deal a blow on the Islamic Republic of Iran. "We should resist the plot by strengthening our unity", he added.

The president made the remarks in a speech to the Interior Ministry officials here where he added that the present Iranian society unlike that in the former regime is well aware of political issues.

"Even an old woman who lives in a remote village in Iran is now well aware of the reason why the Islamic Republic opposes the U.S. and the regime occupying Palestine or why it supports the freedom movements in the world", the president said.

Khamene'i said that the statements of the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and those of other officials in the Majlis (Parliament) or in nation-wide Friday mass prayers are what have helped raise the political knowledge of the people.

Because the arrogant powers have been defeated in the economic fronts, they are now conspiring to sow discord among the Iranian people, the president said, noting that the officials by maintaining their unity could set an example for the people.

Addressing also the audience was Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

Meets Makers of Chemical Neutralizers

LD042219 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 4, IRNA — Manufacturers of machines for neutralizing chemical bombs met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Saturday before leaving for the battlefronts.

The president said that the only hope of the enemy was to deploy chemical bombs once the Iranian Muslim combatants should corner the Iraqi forces in the war, which hope, he said, has now come to nothing.

The president said that with respect to its breakthroughs in fighting chemical wars the Islamic Republic has good reason to be optimistic about the future of the war and of the Islamic Revolution.

Hoj. Khamene'i furthermore said that the Iraqi regime is now more than any time in the past on a shaky ground because, he added, the Baghdad regime now gets only half-hearted support from outside. Of course, said the president, there are states which still continue their support for the Baghdad regime out of mere confusion and panic. He said Baghdad's supporters are now desperate and uncertain about Saddam's fate.

The president stressed on the value of religious, ideological, and spiritual elements in the Islamic Revolution as a motive for the old and young to participate in the war for safeguarding those values.

Khamene'i said in other parts of the world there is advanced technology and technical know-how, but that the Iranian nation is unrivaled throughout the world for its attachment to spiritual and ideological values.

The president who is also head of Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said that with respect to the spiritual values predominant among the country's Muslim people it is more than obvious that they should struggle against the global superpowers.

Velayati Returns From UN Session; Issues Statement

LD040655 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 4, IRNA — Iran will not accept any unjust decision of the UN Security Council or any other international organisation on the Iraqi-imposed war, said the Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati upon his return from the UN session, here Friday night.

Velayati further restated conditons set forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran for ending the seven-year-old Iraqi-imposed war including punishment and condemnation of the aggressor, payment of war reparations, and return of Iraqi war refugees to Iraq.

"As we have stated before, the fate of the war will be decided at battle fields and by the Islamic combatants of Iran," he added. On this issue, he emphasised, Iran is not waiting for the decison of international bodies.

Velayati made these remarks in reference to a session of the UN Security Council called by Iraq and a number of the reactionary Arab governments. Iran has not been attending sessions of the Security Council on the Iraqi-imposed war, due to unfair stance of the council towards the issue, he added. The Islamic Republic of Iran will only attend the council's sessions if it adopts new stance, he stressed.

In the annual session of the UN General Assembly, he said, Iran voiced its views and stances on various international and regional issues including the imposed-war, he told IRNA.

It was stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been defending itself against Iraqi aggressions and has been fighting for its legitimate rights and has no territorial ambitions on Iraq or any other country.

Alongside the session, he added, the Iranian delegation held meetings with other delegations and stated its outright opposition towards chairmanship of King Hassan of Morocco over the Islamic Conference Organisation.

Issues Further Comments to Tehran Radio

NC040857 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Our country's foreign minister returned to Tehran last night, after participating in the 41st UN General Assembly session in New York. Mr Velayati spoke to our correspondent on the outcome of this visit and on the Iranian stance toward last night's UN General Assembly session. We invite you to listen to the following:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, you took part in three important sessions of the UN General Assembly and in the meeting of foreign ministers of the Group of 77, as well as the ICO foreign ministers' session. Could you please tell us about the results of your visit to New York and the likely international repercussions for the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Participation in the annual session of the UN General Assembly, usually by foreign ministers and at times by heads of states, gives all UN member-states the opportunity to present their stance on the current issues facing the world. For us it was a chance to air our opinions, which we did. The most important point that I dealt with in my speech was the issue of the war. I explained the causes of the imposed war, our defense, our demands, terms, and conditions, and the reason for our insistence on the punishment of the aggressor.

With regard to Iraq, I paid particular attention to the future outlook after the present regime. We also stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no motive in this war except the defense of its rights, as it has been the victim of aggression and must uphold its rights. This is the reason for our continuing the war; otherwise, we consider the Iraqi people to be our brothers and we do not cast covetous eyes on even 1 centimeter of the soil of Iraq or any other country.

On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, I met and exchanged opinions with many foreign ministers. As you mentioned, the Group of 77 countries, which now has 120 members, also held a session, at which the problems of the Third World in general were debated. We presented our views on the international economic situation and ways and means of combating economic difficulties. At the ICO meeting, the Iranian and Syrian representatives emphatically protested the fact that Morocco still professes leadership of this organization. In our opinion it is unacceptable and illegitimate that Morocco should continue in this capacity. The basic tenet of the ICO is the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine. It is utterly unimaginable to us that anyone purporting to head this organization could enter into negotiations with one of the highest officials of the regime in occupied Jerusalem, and then continue in this office. It is high treason against the Islamic world. Opposition by Iran and Syria resulted in tension at the ICO session and its temporary postponement; due to shortage of time, the intended results were not achieved. However, it was necessary for us to see that our views reached the ears of the Islamic nations and of the world.

[Correspondent] We heard in the news that on the insistence of some countries that support Iraq, the UN General Assembly will hold a session tonight. You informed the UN secretary general that Iran was unable to participate in this session on the war. Can you tell us the reason for Iran's absence, and how Iran will react to any resolutions approved at the session?

[Velayati] For quite a while, we have refrained from participation in UN General Assembly sessions on the war, for the reason that this body has never taken a just view since this war began. Our condition for participation in any session concerning the war is that the assembly should compensate for its former stand on the war, although its present stance seems to indicate a change for the better. Until then we cannot participate in any such session.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Letter to Perez de Cuellar on Regional Security Cited

LD032125 Kuwait KUNA in English 1720 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] United Nations, Oct 3 (KUNA) — Iran said Friday it "is ready to explore seriously means to prevent the widening of the conflict and to guarantee regional security."

In a letter to the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the foreign minister of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said Iran has proposed a regional security arrangement based on absolute respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of regional countries, non intervention in the internal affairs of one another and maintenance of neutrality with regard to the imposed war by non-participants.

"Such a pragmatic approach to this most important issue can be further studied, exploring means to achieve a much needed system of regional security for this volatile region of the world," he added. He said the Security Council should do its utmost to enhance and strengthen the praiseworthy and humanitarian initiatives, efforts, and achievements of the secretary-general. There are still more avenues to be explored, he said, and such future possibilities should not be blocked. Velayati expressed his country's readiness to continue its cooperation with the UN secretary-general and explore new possibilities in order to reduce the sufferings caused by the imposed war, through enforcement of the relevant rules of international law.

The Security Council is scheduled to meet Friday to discuss "the situation between Iran and Iraq" in response to a request by Committee of Seven earlier this week.

Ministry on UN Indecisive Action

LD052154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Oct 86

[Text] In connection with the recent session of the UN Security Council on Iraq's war against Iran and the remarks made by the

UN secretary general our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman said today: Since the beginning of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran we have always declared that the United Nations and the Security Council are obliged, according to the UN Charter, to review the issue of Iraq's aggression, the manner in which the aggressor should be punished, and the measures needed for preventing violations of the humanitarian and international laws, to reduce damage inflicted by war and steps to be taken to prevent the expansion of the war and involvement of other countries of the region. In this connection the Islamic Republic of Iran has always declared its readiness in these respects to the UN secretary general.

In the present year this state of readiness was officially communicated to his excellency in a letter. As we have witnessed, the secretary general's efforts in connection with war crimes and the use of chemical weapons by Iraq has to some extent clarified the facts although, unfortunately, no decisive action was taken to deter this violator of international laws and the party responsible for such war damage.

At present the bombing of civilian areas and the use of chemical weapons continues despite of the condemnation of it by the Security Council and the UN secretary general. The secretary general is well aware that the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite capability, has refused to make use of chemical weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed with his excellency's proposals in connection with attacks on merchant ships and retaliatory attacks on civilian areas. Iran was the first side to implement the said proposals, although Iraq has officially and in practice rejected the 8-point plan.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: The UN refusal to review the aggression and ways to punish the aggressor is puzzling to us. Why is the United Nations not taking any steps in the region to prevent the expansion of the war in the region? We regret to announce that the UN secretary general has been unable to persuade the Security Council to adopt just and impartial stances, and his speech at the Security Council session indicated that he is under pressure and moving in a direction that thwarts the effects of his previous positive steps.

In conclusion he said: We feel that all the UN facilities have been mobilized to save a defeated aggressor. This not only weakens a great international organization, it makes it clear to us, who have until now been able to restore our rights by virtue of our combatants' resistance and struggle, that our way and our decision have been correct, and that we should follow the same path more decisively.

West Termed 'Fearful' of Iraqi Fate, Iranian Victory

NC041159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] Following the continued departure of the popular forces to the warfronts, it was announced recently that, at the beginning of the month of Moharram, the number of battalions dispatched had reached 300. As was stated earlier, troops will continue to be dispatched until the number of battalions has reached 500. This trend is continuing in response to our officials' requests based on the need to keep up the pressure and expedite the final victory. It has, however, resulted in the overt expression of apprehension on the part of Western circles. In light of the Islamic combatants' dazzling victories in Al-Faw and Mehran, the West is now fearful about the future course of the war and the fate of the Iraqi regime. The Al-Faw and Mehran victories and Saddam's inability to regain these areas prove that the Iraqi Army does not have the strength to resist the Islamic combatants, due to its weakening morale and pessimism resulting from constant defeat. This is despite the military support it receives from East and West and its access to sophisticated modern armaments. The Islamic forces have proved their ability to inflict crushing and lethal blows on the aggressors at appropriate junctures.

All these factors have contributed to the Western media's explicit anxiety and warnings about the consequences of an Iranian victory, thus paving the way for greater support of Saddam. Furthermore, in view of the ever-increasing concern felt by world oppression, most of Saddam's Arab supporters asked the UN General Assembly to hold an extraordinary session to review the latest developments in the imposed war and to pass an appropriate resolution. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, in his UN General Assembly speech, called on the United Nations and the superpowers to take steps to terminate the war, or at least to take a favorable stance toward Iraq which is, allegedly, desirous of a speedy end to the imposed war. The speeches of most of the foreign ministers of Arab countries at the UN session reflected this viewpoint. The president of the GCC expressed his concern that the Gulf war might spread to the Persian Gulf and the littoral states, and asked the superpowers to take preventive measures. Following his appeal, a U.S. official asked those who support foreign intervention in the Persian Gulf to specify the exact scale and limits of their request. These utterances and the hasty reaction of the terrorist Reagan government indicate the immense and growing dread which the forces of reaction and oppression have of the future operations of the Islamic combatants. Despite the fact that these countries have been serving the Aflaqi Iraqi regime's adventurist ends in one way or another, and have aided and abetted Iraq militarily or economically, it seems that the pitiful efforts of the reactionaries and oppressors have not proved effective.

On the other hand, the UN Security Council has inflicted a blow on its own credibility by its unilateral support of the aggressor. This council has maintained a silence on Iraqi aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran ever since the war began and the Aflaqi forces advanced. This biased stance has not enabled the Security Council to achieve anything. As Mr Velayati stated in his UN General Assembly speech, the UN Security Council has always striven to maintain an equilibrium even at the expense of justice; this does not respond to the rightful expectations of the Muslim Iranian nation. As it has shown in the past 6 years, Iran will continue to resist tyranny and aggression in order to uphold its legitimate rights. The cowardly efforts of any organization to persuade it to do otherwise will only serve to erode that organization's credibility. Saddam's supporters would do well to revise their myopic and unrealistic stance in view of the latest developments in the imposed war — the Al-Faw and Mehran victories

in particular — so that they do not take their antagonism toward Iran's just demands any further.

Majlis Speaker on Iranian Military Power, Iraqi Panic

LD041522 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 4, IRNA — Spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council (SDC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Saturday that Iran's military power has noticeably increased compared to the previous years.

Addressing a nation-wide meeting of Basij (Mobilization) Officials Rafsanjani pointed the shaky position of the Iraqi regime and said that presently there is wide-spread panic both among the Iraqi officials and those reactionary forces who had wished to see the dawn of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian people by their given belief in the Islamic faith are emerging as a strong, independent, and invincible power that can amaze the world, he said and cited the recent formation of 500 combat battalions as the latest example of such a capability.

Had Iran announced that it was going to form 500 combat battalions at the beginning of the Iraqi-imposed-war the world would have certainly considered it a bluff, he said.

"But," he added, "the world is now well aware that Iran is quite capable of doing so."

The Majlis speaker also said that the plots of the enemies necessitated Iran's successful mobilization of manpower and financial resources as well as harnessing the necessary means for its defensive war.

The Majlis speaker called on the Basij officials to continue their efforts to form additional 500 combat battalions for the war fronts.

Cease-fire With Iraq 'Blasphemous' Victory for Enemy

LD041527 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 4, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Saturday that Iran's acceptance of a ceasefire means the victory of the blasphemous enemy in its aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Speaking to a group of theologians and Majlis deputies Rafsanjani said Iran should continue the war until "ultimate victory".

Commenting on Iraq's repeated violations of international conventions, the speaker said that the Iraqi regime, backed by the superpowers and the Persian Gulf Arab states politically and financially, would impose another long-term war on Iran if it were left unpunished in the current conflict.

The superpowers' fear of the Islamic Revolution accounts for their support of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, Rafsanjani said, adding that the Baghdad government, too, has to do in a manner to please both superpowers.

The mass media of the imperialist powers now acknowledge the power of the Islamic Revolution and have made efforts to suggest the advisability of a transfer of power in Iraq.

Rafsanjani furthermore said that the heads of Persian Gulf states now realize that they should live peacefully with their neighbor Iran.

Even those of regional heads of state who previously looked to Iraq's Saddam Husayn because of their fear of Islam have now despaired of him, he said.

On Iran's alleged arms purchases from the Zionist regime as suggested by few foreign media, Rafsanjani said that the acknowledgement of the Zionist officials that Lebanese Hizbullah is fighting that regime on behalf of the Islamic Republic, is the best proof of the falsehood of such rumours.

IRNA Reports Asylum Sought by 150 Iraqi Muslims

LD051541 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 5 Oct 86

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Oct 5, IRNA — An Iraqi electronic technician, from Al-Kufah took asylum with the Islamic Republic Sunday.

The technician who was conscripted by the Ba'thist regime, refused to fight against Muslim combatants of Iran and managed to flee to Iran through the western border posts, near here.

The technician said that Saddam's regime has become very weak politically and militarily due to the crushing blows of the Iranian forces. He said that the Iraqi regime has closed down universities and colleges in Iraq and calls all youths to military services.

According to the report, last week 150 Iraqi Muslims sought asylum with the Islamic Republic of Iran through the western borders of the country. The office of the governor of West Azarbayjan Province said that the group is mainly composed to women and children. There are also 39 people belonging to various religious minorities among the group. Most of the refugees are well educated and among them there are several physicians, engineers, university students, government staff, and teachers.

IRNA Reports Production of Splinter Cartridges

LD042259 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Esfahan, Oct 4, IRNA — Production of 30-mm machine gun cartridges started here by the support workshop for the war zones of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

The anti-personnel cartridges break into 40 pieces when blast [as received]. They act like hand grenades.

The cartridges are used for 'Mostofi' 30-mm machine guns, being manufactured here at present. The production of the machine

gun started here last year with all components supplied from inside the country.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraq Raids Khuzestan Industrial Centers

LD041647 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 4 — At least 27 workers were martyred Saturday when Iraqi war planes bombarded two industrial centres in this southern Iranian province. The Iraqi raids, which were carried out at 11:35 and 11:40 GMT, also injured a number of other workers.

Retaliation on Khanaqin, Basra Planned

LD041718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Following resumed air raids by the enemy on civilian areas this afternoon, the spokesman for the War Publicity Headquarters announced that in response to these wicked acts and attacks on innocent people, the brave forces of Islam will begin their deterrent measures against the Ba'thists tomorrow. Our forces will pound Basra and Khanaqin military and economic installations.

Addressing the residents of Basra and Khanaqin, the spokesman reminded them that the criminal regime of Iraq has again begun attacking civilian areas and is responsible for the consequences of this criminal action. He asked them to evacuate the houses around the military bases and economic centers of these two towns and to go to places of safety in order not to become victims of the wicked acts of their Ba'thist rulers.

Referring to the fact that the combatants of Islam will adjust their fire to correspond with the wicked acts of the Ba'thist regime, the spokesman for the War Publicity Headquarters said: Our forces are still capable of pounding all military and economic installations inside Iraq and will continue their retaliatory measures until the abject enemy repents.

Shelling of Centers Near Basra Begun

LD051114 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 5 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 5, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran began shelling of Iraq's industrial and economic centers around Basra at 07:00 hours (03:30 hours GMT) Sunday in retaliation for Saturday's enemy raid on Iranian residential areas in Khuzestan which martyred 27 workers. The shelling will continue until 07:00 hours (03:30 GMT) Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Residential Bombing Claim Denied

LD060810 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 6 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 6 IRNA — The War Information Headquarters' spokesman, here Monday categorically denied claims of the Iraqi regime alleging Iran of having shelled residential areas of the Iraqi cities of Al-Kut and Basra.

According to the spokesman the Iranian planes Sunday bombed a factory which is an economic and industrial target. Meanwhile, he added, the Muslim forces of Iran in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on two residential quarters in Khuzestan Province, have only been shelling economic and military centers of suburbs of Basra.

Iraqi VII Army Corps Command 'Demolished'

LD051759 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 5 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov, Oct 5, IRNA — Command Headquarters of Iraq's Seventh Army Corps, west of Abu al-Khasib here was demolished by the heavy artillery fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants Sunday morning. A number of Iraqi officers were killed or wounded in this attack, and ambulances have reportedly been carrying the wounded for several hours. Also, several enemy vehicles, parked near the headquarters, were set ablaze.

Reports reaching here from the southern fronts added that 25 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when the Basra-Abu al-Khasib military road came under heavy fire of the Iranian forces in which seven group bunkers, two mortar launchers, two anti-aircraft guns, and a tanker truck were destroyed Sunday.

Meanwhile, the southern Iranian port cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were subjected to Iraqi long-range artillery fire incurring damage Saturday and Sunday.

Soviet-Made Tanks Among Weapons Captured

LD042312 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 4, IRNA — Various kinds of heavy military vehicles and sophisticated missile-launchers seized as booty in the Iraqi imposed war during Val Fajr-8 operations (in Al-Faw) were paraded in the streets of the capital Saturday afternoon.

The booty also included several Soviet-made T-72 and T-62 tanks, 37 mm-guns, mortar launchers, personnel carriers as well as anti-aircraft batteries.

T-72 and T-62 tanks are among the most expensive and modern tanks manufactured in the eastern bloc. Many of them were seized intact during the Val Fajr-8 operations on February 9, 1985 which resulted in the liberation of the Iraqi oil port of Al-Faw by the Muslim combatants.

According to military officials several large units of the Armed Forces especially the Basij forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) have been well-equipped by means of the seized weaponry.

Communique No 2,613

LD031743 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 3 IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted three foreign tankers and trade ships in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday, but allowed them to proceed on their voyage since they had no cargo destined for Iraq, according to a military communique released here Friday.

Communique Number 2,613 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications in the southern fronts killing and wounding at least seven enemy soldiers. Part of Iraqi positions, four bunkers as well as two vehicles were demolished in the shelling, added the communique.

The communique said that an Iraqi vehicle column was shelled by Muslim forces of Iran in Zayd operational region at 07:30 GMT Thursday as a result of which most of its vehicles were set ablaze.

Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions, fortifications, and supply routes over Thursday and Friday silencing enemy fire and destroying several group bunkers and observation posts. It added that some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the shelling.

In western fronts, the communique said, the Muslim combatants of Iran killed or wounded several Iraqi troops when their positions and fortifications were shelled. Twelve group and individual bunkers as well as two trucks of the enemy were set afire in the shelling, it added.

Exchange of artillery fire continued sporadically in southern battlefronts being somewhat more intense in Talayeh and Kushk.

The city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, sustained damage during the past week when it came under Iraqi long-range artillery fire, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,614

LD041657 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 4 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 4, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants shot down an Iraqi war plane at 15:04 hours local time (11:34 GMT) Saturday when Iraqi war planes attempted to raid economic installations of border areas in Khuzestan Province. The plane crashed in Iraq, according to a military communique released here Saturday.

Communique Number 2,614 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi infantry forces and supply vehicles in Majnun Island operational regions inflicting heavy damage on the enemy.

The Iranian Muslim forces subjected Iraqi positions and fortifications with tank and artillery fire across Jofeyr, silencing the enemy fire, demolishing Iraqi positions, and setting ablaze several armoured vehicles.

The Iranian patrol units carried out their missions in southern fronts successfully, inflicting heavy blows on the enemy forces. The communique added that the Muslim combatants of Iran checked engineering activities of the enemy of the same fronts, especially on the opposite side of Khorramshahr and Shalamcheh, across Arvand River.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces, the communique added, raided Iraqi positions with artillery fire killing or wounding several enemy troops. Two Iraqi trucks as well as ten weapon emplacements and observation posts of the enemy were set ablaze during the shelling.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in western fronts being somewhat more intense in the Mehran region, the communique said, adding that the Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi tank positions and armoured units of the enemy in Sumar, killing or wounding several Iraqi soldiers and tank crews. A number of personnel carriers of the enemy were destroyed in the shelling, said the communique. The communique said that ten Iraqi gun emplacements and observation posts were also set afire in other regions at the western fronts.

The Iranian Muslim combatants, continued the communique, checked movements of Iraqi vehicle and supply columns in Piranshahr, Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, and Marivan regions by dispatching patrol units and shelling Iraqi supply routes.

The communique said that exchange of fire continued in Panjwin during which Iraqi armoured units sustained considerable damage.

Iran's Navy intercepted a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed it to proceed on being satisfied that there was no Iraqi-bound cargo on board, the communique concluded.